



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
GIVES HEALTH AND NUTRITION A VITAMIN SHOT IN THE ARM
—GRANTEES OF VITAMINS FUND PROJECT NAMED—**

Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw, Jr., announced today that 34 projects will receive funding from settlement proceeds of a price-fixing case against top vitamin manufacturers. The settlement brings \$1.9 million to the State of West Virginia to improve the health and nutrition of West Virginia's citizens.

Selection of the grants was done by the Vitamin Project Committee, consisting of the following:

Ann Dacey, Senior Program Coordinator for Outreach, West Virginia University School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, of Monongalia County;

Elaine Harris, International Representative, Communication Workers of America, of Kanawha County;

Jennifer Plymale, Director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University, of Cabell County;

Michael Hagg, Executive Vice President of Operations, Hancock County Sheltered Workshop, of Hancock County;

Sheila Hamilton, Parts Distribution Technician with General Motors and member of the State Board of Education, of Jefferson County; and

Douglas L. Davis, Assistant Attorney General.

Approximately \$845,000 will be distributed to 34 organizations in West Virginia to implement a wide variety of programs related to health and nutrition. The Attorney General's office received 130 applications for funding. "The quality of the grant applications was outstanding," said Attorney General McGraw. "It made the grant selection process extremely difficult. The committee members worked very hard, for which I am very grateful."

The organizations receiving grant monies are as follows:

Barbour County Barbour County Senior Center Philippi \$31,405.00
Cabell County Ebenezer Medical Outreach, Inc. Huntington \$10,000.00
Valley Health Systems Huntington \$33,763.50
Calhoun County Calhoun County Library Grantsville \$10,000.00
Fayette County Ansted Elementary School Ansted \$ 1,000.00
Greenbrier County Northern Greenbrier Health Clinic, Inc. Williamsburg \$32,520.00

Hancock County Boys and Girls Clubs of Weirton, Inc. Weirton \$71,000.00
 Change, Inc. Weirton \$26,938.00
 Harrison County ARC of Harrison County Clarksburg \$19,200.00
 Central WV Community Action Assoc. Clarksburg \$26,741.00
 Jefferson County Jefferson County Council on Aging, Inc. Ranson \$43,822.00
 Meals on Wheels of Jefferson County Charles Town \$ 900.00
 Kanawha County Children's Therapy Clinic Charleston \$41,658.00

 East End Family Resource Center Charleston \$13,316.00
 YWCA's Sojourner's Shelter for the Homeless Women and Families
 Charleston \$24,824.65
 YWCA's Resolve Family Abuse Program Charleston \$19,118.10
 Lincoln County Lincoln County Family Resource Network, Inc. Branchland \$15,000.00
 Lincoln County Primary Care, Inc. Hamlin \$28,000.00
 Marion County North Central WV Community Action Assoc. Fairmont \$25,000.00
 Task Force on Domestic Violence, "HOPE, Inc." Fairmont \$25,000.00
 McDowell County Big Creek People in Action, Inc. Caretta \$22,153.00
 Stop Abusive Family Environments, Inc. Welch \$25,000.00
 Monongalia County Catholic Community Services of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
 Morgantown \$25,000.00
 Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center, Inc. Morgantown \$25,000.00
 Nicholas County Richwood Food and Clothing Pantry Richwood \$18,500.00
 Ohio County Salvation Army Wheeling \$27,000.00
 Raleigh County Church of God Family Worship Center d/b/a Fishes and Loaves Food Ministry
 MacArthur \$46,939.00
 Comprehensive Women's Service Council, Inc. d/b/a Women's Resource Center
 Beckley \$25,000.00
 Roane County Roane County Committee on Aging Spencer \$28,204.00
 Roane County Library Spencer \$10,000.00
 Wood County Parkersburg Area Community Foundation Parkersburg \$22,750.45
 WV Community Action Directors Association Parkersburg \$50,000.00
 Wyoming County Brenton Church of God Brenton \$25,000.00
 Wyoming County Public Library Pineville \$ 5,000.00

Of the approximately two million dollars that West Virginia will receive as its share of the settlement, Attorney General McGraw said the remaining funds, \$1 million, are being given to the Department of Health and Human Resources to fund an oral and dental health program for adults moving back into the workforce. The Department of Health and Human Resources will be able to draw down federal matching dollars to boost the overall program to \$4 million.

The settlement with the six vitamin manufacturers – Hoffman-LaRoche, BASF Corporation, Aventis Animal Nutrition SA, Takeda Chemical, Eisai Co. Ltd., Daiichi Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. – is the largest ever under State law that permits consumers and businesses to recover damages for price-fixing overcharges even though they did not buy a product directly from the price fixers. The total value to all the states participating will be approximately \$187,000,000.

The vitamins made by these companies were used in a wide variety of everyday products including milk, bread, cereal, juices, baby food, pet food, dietary supplements and beauty products such as lipstick and hair care products.

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